

Mental Health Redesign – Continuum of Care

BENEFIT AND EMPLOYMENT WORKGROUP

CHARGE OF THE WORKGROUP:

This workgroup is designed to meet SMART Goal 11 of the Mental Health Redesign. SMART Goal 11 states:

- Improve the economic security of persons with mental illness by increasing the utilization of disability-related benefits including SSI/SSDI and Medicaid.

The **three aims** of this workgroup are the following:

1. Record and monitor the measurement of the number of persons who received assistance in completing SSI/SSDI applications through the Winged Victory Program contact with the Behavioral Health Division. This would include data of the number of applications under the Affordable Care Act completed for individuals at BHD.
2. Invite partner agencies to join the SOAR Collaborative who have initiatives active in their agencies for the purpose of collaboration and shared resources. The goal of this activity is to create a sustainable collaborative with the charge of maintaining ongoing SOAR applications.
3. Anti-Stigma Initiative on the use of Return to Work tools of the Social Security System. This could include the development of educational materials, posters, U-Tube Videos and Website Links. The focus of this initiative is to create a platform for individuals with lived experience who have mastered the Return to Work System to tell their personal story. It would also include gathering educational materials that currently exist and bundling them together to make them accessible for individuals who need them.

WORKGROUP OUTPUTS:

- ✓ The committee expects a measureable increase in the number of persons whose applications for SSI/SSDI are approved.
- ✓ The committee expects an increase in the number of successful applications under the Affordable Care Act for individuals at the Behavioral Health Division.
- ✓ The committee will establish a SOAR Collaborative comprised of agencies who are utilizing the SOAR application strategy to help individual's access benefits.
- ✓ The committee will implement a set of education strategies as a gateway to increase the likelihood of individuals on SSI/SSDI seeking employment. This initiative supports the implementation of Community Recovery Services and Comprehensive Community Services.